

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COAL MINERS MEMORIAL

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Southern Illinois Coal Miners and the Memorial that has been dedicated in their honor. The memorial consists of a wall with the names of coal miners who currently work or have worked in the southern Illinois mines.

I would like to share with you this poem by Raymond D. Null of Herrin, IL. This work gives us an idea of the different kinds of struggles coal miners face.

"ILLINOIS BLACK GOLD"

In the early years, our MINERS lived in the "patch," in their little company houses, along the train tracks
With their lunch bucket in hand, off to work they would go, most walking to work, through the summers and snows
Many fathers and sons, have worked side by side, in areas not tall, and sometimes not wide
They carved out their living, in walls of pure coal, as they worked hard and labored, to mine this "Black Gold"
A ride down the deep shaft, a long walk through the mine, to this deep darkened land, where the sun never shines
Where it's deep as a dungeon, and nearly as cold, and the MINERS were proud, to mine this "Black Gold"
Deep in the ground, everyday these men toiled, as they spotted and blasted, through the layers of soil
They were our MINERS, and they brought us our coal, with their shovels and picks they mined this "Black Gold"
These pioneers of labor, with the coal black face, are the legends of mining, that time won't erase
They worked dangerously hard, in their race against time, in this deep dark hole, that they call the mine
In the early years, lives were taken at times, and the news spread quickly, to other towns and their mines
There would be sounds of sorrow, and sounds of pain, like the quill from the whistle, of a slow passing train
There are memorials that salute, those who answered their call, and prayers are said daily, for those who gave all
And for all of the MINERS, who mined this "Black Gold," Let us give thanks, and may God bless their soul.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I commend the coal miners of Southern Illinois. Due to their hard work and dedication in the mining industry, it is clear that they are an asset to Southern Illinois and all of the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained, I was absent for rollcall

vote No. 554. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF JUDITH WEST

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy West, an outstanding New Yorker, on the occasion of her retirement from Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians.

Judy West has had a long and successful career serving as Director of Public Relations and Legislative Affairs for Local 802 since 1983. Her contributions to the Labor movement in particular, and to society as a whole, have been exemplary and set the standard to which we should all rise.

As an outspoken advocate for all working people, Judy has fought to ensure that Labor's agenda is always at the top of every elected official's list. From her work on exposing the abuses of farm labor in New York State to highlighting the particular concerns of musicians and other performing artists, her persistence and determination on behalf of these causes have become her trademarks.

In addition to her myriad endeavors on behalf of labor, Judy has also devoted her energies to the struggle for civil rights, affordable housing and decent health care for all. She has been so committed because she believes that as a citizen it is her duty to create a more just society for all. Through her unstinting devotion of time and generous use of talents, Judy West has become recognized as one of the most effective advocates of our time.

Mr. Speaker, Judy West may be officially retiring from her job, but I know that she will continue making outstanding contributions in the service of society. Her leadership will be missed, however, she and her family will have the opportunity to spend more time together. I join with all working people in thanking Judy for her tireless advocacy, personal commitment to our community and for her friendship.

IN HONOR OF NICK A. ANDRIOTIS, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SAINT DEMETRIOS CATHEDRAL PARISH COUNCIL AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE ST. DEMETRIOS SCHOOL BOARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Nick A. Andriotis, the former president of the Parish Council at the Saint Demetrios Cathedral and Co-Chairman of the St. Demetrios School Board in Astoria, Queens, New York. Mr. Andriotis will receive this year's Odyssey Award from the Cathedral in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the church. The award will be presented at the church's 73rd Anniversary celebration this month.

Mr. Andriotis has been a tireless activist for the entire Greek-American community of Astoria through his work with the Hellenic Cultural Center and the St. Demetrios School System. He has served as a strong advocate for the preservation of the Greek Orthodox faith, as well as for Greek culture, traditions, and the Greek language. He is the founder of the St. Demetrios High School, which is the direct product of his vision, determination, and enthusiasm. In fact, the new high school building became a reality due to Mr. Andriotis's valiant efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud to have such a community-oriented leader and visionary working to improve the lives of the many Greek and Greek-American residents of New York. This year's Odyssey Award will honor a worthy man and a diligent and faithful member of the Greek-American community. I congratulate Mr. Andriotis on his award and his many years of community service and I am confident that the selfless dedication he has demonstrated toward his friends and neighbors will continue through the work of the Saint Demetrios Cathedral.

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial, from the October 9, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. This editorial highlights the insufficient answers from the film industry about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film content.

[From the Daily News, October 9, 2000]

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN PRODUCES LESS THAN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS BY INDUSTRY

The movie industry's responses to congressional concern about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film fare is unsatisfactory. The practice of using young test audiences is reprehensible.

While Jack Valenti, the veteran political operative who speaks for the Motion Picture Association of America, promised the industry would change the objectionable practice, it is not enough. Ratings ought to change and entertainment ought to be lifted from the gutter.

Mr. Valenti did say that "inappropriate" targeting of children for R-rated movies would stop. That practice has found some filmmakers attempting to appeal to youngsters whose age would disqualify them from viewing.

The Internet figures in this problem as well. For the industry's teen Web sites can be utilized, and there were no promises that marketing of R-rated films would be entirely barred from them.

The president of Sony, parent company of Columbia Pictures, termed the marketing of a violent PG-13 film to a younger audience "a judgment lapse." It would more properly be called a stupid error demanding far more prompt attention than it received. That company is far from alone, however.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, expressed the sentiment of many Americans